

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 37-39 and 41-44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,846,727 to Glover *et al.* ("Glover"). Also, in the alternative, claims 37-39 and 41-44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Glover in view of Applicant Admitted Prior Art (Figures 4-6 and p.9). Applicant has amended independent claim 37 to overcome the present rejections.

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner enter the amendments as offered. Specifically, applicant submits that the present amendments should be entered as per M.P.E.P. § 713.14, as the amendments provide a basis to avoid the rejections set forth in the current official action placing the case in condition for allowance, or in the alternative a better condition for appeal. Also, the amended claims do not raise the issue of new matter, nor do the amendments present new issues requiring further consideration or search.

The present invention is directed to a connector press block. Unlike a connector itself, a press block facilitates installation of a connector. For example, a press block may be used to install a connector's press-fit contact terminals into corresponding holes of a printed circuit board (PCB). As stated in the present Background of the Invention section, designing a press block requires consideration of the insertion forces that the press block must withstand (Specification – page 2, lines 1-9). These forces are shifted to the press block so that the connector may avoid being damaged by such forces during installation of the connector.

Claim 37 has been amended to further draw out the distinction between Glover's connector and the present invention's press block. In particular, claim 37 has been amended to recite a press block having openings that terminate within the housing. By terminating

within the housing, the press block is able to distribute a force to the terminals during insertion of a connector into a substrate, for example, and to removably engage the terminals after insertion of the connector. These features also have been included in amended claim 37.

Glover is not directed to a press block that facilitates the installation of a connector. Glover is directed to the connector itself. Glover does not teach or suggest that its openings 52 terminate within the housing. This is to be expected, because quite simply, the openings 52 described in Figure 2 of Glover, and further detailed with reference to Figures 4-6 of Glover are the openings of an electrical connector itself, and not of a press block used to install such a connector. The openings 52 in Glover are designed to simply receive a connection terminal. It further follows, therefore, that Glover does not teach or suggest that its openings 52 can either distribute a force to the terminals during insertion of a connector into the substrate or removably engage the terminals so as to distribute a force.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 37-39 and 41-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Glover. Also, for the same reasons discussed above with respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 37-39 and 41-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Glover in view of Applicant Admitted Prior Art (Figures 4-6 and p.9).

Applicant previously added Figure 12 to the specification (*Response to Office Action dated December 20, 2002*). However, the examiner did not enter new Figure 12 because "it was not disclosed in the specification." (*Office Action dated February 21, 2003* at p. 2). Although applicant does not rely on Figure 12 for the purposes of the present response, applicant respectfully requests that the figure be accepted and added to the present specification. Figure 12 simply is another view (*i.e.*, an isometric view) of the press block

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depicted in Figures 7, 8, 9, 10a and 10b. In fact, the piece numbers depicted in Figure 12 (piece numbers 40, 41, 42, 43 and 44) have previously been listed in Figures 7, 8, 9, 10a, and 10b and are discussed in the present specification with reference to those figures. Therefore, Figure 12 is not new matter but simply provides further clarification and explanation of the invention as previously described throughout the specification. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that Figure 12 be accepted and added to the present specification.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. In the event that the Examiner cannot allow the present application for any reason, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney, Vincent J. Roccia at (215) 564-8946, to discuss resolution of any remaining issues.

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